

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 08526 01 OF 02 220713Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 AID-05 IO-13 DIWY-01

AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 SP-02 SS-15 HEW-04 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /078 W

-----128450 220723Z /17

R 220543Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3477

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 8526

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR POPULATION INFORMATION

REF: A) STATE 167895 B) 76 ISLAMABAD A-24, FEB. 13, 1976

C) USAID O/PHN-5/9/77 MULTI YEAR POPULATION STRATEGY  
FOR PAKISTAN

1. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: TOTAL POPULATION JANUARY 1977 IS ESTIMATED AT 73.4 MILLION. THE BIRTH RATE IN BOTH 1975 AND 1976 WAS 44.5/1000 AND THE DEATH RATE IN BOTH YEARS WAS 14.5/1000. THESE FIGURES ARE PROVIDED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN, ADJUSTED ON THE BASIS OF THE 1972 CENSUS. THE PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS AND THE PAKISTAN FERTILITY SURVEY SHOW BIRTH ESTIMATES BETWEEN 40.5 AND 43.6, BASED ON CROSS-SECTIONAL SURVEYS WHICH OFTEN UNDER-ESTIMATE BIRTH RATES.

2. THE MAJOR CHANGE IN POPULATION PLANNING POLICY SINCE REF B HAS BEEN THE FEDERALIZATION OF THE PROGRAM. PROVINCIAL BOARDS HAVE BEEN ABOLISHED AND THE ENTIRE PROGRAM IS NOW CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED BY A FEDERAL SECRETARY, WITH FOUR REGIONAL OFFICES, EACH UNDER A DIRECTOR-GENERAL.

3. IN GENERAL, ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN  
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 08526 01 OF 02 220713Z

RATHER HALF-HEARTED AS WAS POINTED OUT IN REF B. PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON POPULATION POLICY ARE INFREQUENT. THE PROGRAM IS STAFFED BY PEOPLE WHO GENERALLY REPRESENT LESS THAN THE BEST OF THE PAKISTANI CIVIL SERVICE HAS TO OFFER.

4. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IS MINIMAL ALTHOUGH SOME EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO INCREASE IT. EVEN DURING THE YEARS OF

AYUB KHAN'S "BASIC DEMOCRACIES" THIS DIMENSION MADE LITTLE HEADWAY. THERE HAS BEEN MUCH TALK OF A NEW SYSTEM OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN RECENT YEARS, BUT NOTHING HAS MATERIALIZED.

5. HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND FAMILY PLANNING: MOST HEALTH FACILITIES, BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE, WILL CLAIM THEY ARE INCLUDING FAMILY PLANNING AMONG THEIR SERVICES BUT THE FACT IS THAT THEIR PARTICIPATION IS NEGLIGIBLE. POPULATION PLANNING AND HEALTH ARE SEPARATE, INDEPENDENT PROGRAMS IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. FAMILY PLANNING IS LEFT TO THE POPULATION PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT WELL COORDINATED WITH THE HEALTH SERVICE PEOPLE. THE POPULATION PLANNING DIVISION HAS BROADENED HEALTH OFFERINGS IN ITS FAMILY WELFARE CLINICS TO INCLUDE MATERNAL AND CHILD CARE, INCLUDING TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS, IN ADDITION TO FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES.

6. ADEQUACY OF CURRENT DONOR ASSISTANCE: THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A SHORTAGE OF DONOR ASSISTANCE IN THIS PROGRAM, BUT

USE OF THESE RESOURCES HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN EFFECTIVE. MOST DONORS ARE NOW TYING THEIR ASSISTANCE TO SPECIFIC COMPONENTS, REQUIRING DETAILED PLANS IN ADVANCE. USAID IS INTRODUCING FIXED REIMBURSEMENT INTO ITS ASSISTANCE FOR THE VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION PROGRAM AND THE PROPOSED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 08526 01 OF 02 220713Z

7. NON-POPULATION PROGRAMS AFFECTING POPULATION GROWTH WERE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY IN REF B. THE PAKISTAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR '77-'83 INCLUDES A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE BASIC SERVICES WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL MODERATE FERTILITY. SPECIAL EMPHASIS IS BEING GIVEN TO EDUCATION, HEALTH SERVICES, AND SOCIAL WELFARE. IF THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT WERE ABLE TO FULFILL ITS DEVELOPMENT GOALS, GRADUAL REDUCTION OF FERTILITY LEVELS WOULD TAKE PLACE. HOWEVER, THE PAST RECORD OF THE GOVERNMENT IN ACHIEVING DEVELOPMENT GOALS HAS BEEN POOR. IT HAS BARELY SUCCEEDED IN KEEPING UP WITH DEMAND FOR SERVICES.

8. AS IT IS IN MOST ORTHODIX ISLAMIC SOCIETIES, THE STATUS OF WOMEN IS VERY LOW IN PAKISTAN BY WESTERN STANDARDS. MANY WOMEN ARE KEPT IN "PURDAH" (SECLUSION) AND VERY FEW WOMEN RECEIVE ANY EDUCATION. THE LITERACY RATE FOR WOMEN IS 9 PERCENT, THAT OF MEN 30 PERCENT. EVEN WOMEN WHO DO ATTEND SCHOOL ARE USUALLY FORCED TO QUIT AFTER TWO OR THREE YEARS OF PRIMARY EDUCATION. STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THERE IS A DEFINITE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN A WOMAN HAS AND THE EXTENT OF HER EDUCATION. ONLY A TINY FRACTION OF PAKISTANI WOMEN HAVE COMPLETED EVEN A PRIMARY EDUCATION. IT IS UN-

LIKELY THAT THE PERCENTAGE WILL INCREASE DRAMATICALLY  
IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR SEVERAL REASONS, INCLUDING A SHORTAGE  
OF SCHOOLS AND SOCIAL ATTITUDES, INCLUDING THE NEGATIVE  
MALE ATTITUDE TOWARD ALLOWING WOMEN TO GO TO SCHOOL. BHUTTO'S  
GOVERNMENT DID MAKE SINCERE EFFORTS TO RAISE THE STATUS  
OF WOMEN.

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 08526 02 OF 02 220721Z  
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R 220543Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3478

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 8526

9. INCOME REDISTRIBUTION: DATA ON INCOME DISTRIBUTION ARE  
LIMITED. IN GENERAL, PAKISTAN'S INCOME DISTRIBUTION IS  
THOUGHT TO BE MORE LEVEL THAN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,  
BUT IT IS NOW KNOWN WHETHER ANY INCOME REDISTRIBUTION  
HAS TAKEN PLACE IN RECENT YEARS. SEVERAL LAND REFORMS  
HAVE TAKEN PLACE BUT AT TIMES LAND HAS JUST BEEN  
SHUFFLED AROUND AMONG MEMBERS OF THE SAME FAMILY.

10. FOOD AND POPULATION WERE COVERED ADEQUATELY IN  
REF B. MORE RECENT STATISTICS SHOW THE NEED FOR GRAIN  
IMPORTS IS RAPIDLY DECREASING. THE 1976 WHEAT CROP WAS  
8.8 MILLION TONS AND THE ESTIMATES FOR THE 1977 CROP GO  
AS HIGH AS 9 MILLION TONS. PAKISTAN IS A RICE EXPORTER  
AND DUE TO THE BUMPER CROPS OF THE PAST TWO YEARS IS  
CURRENTLY A NET GRAIN EXPORTER. HOWEVER, CONSUMPTION  
OF EDIBLE OILS IS RISING RAPIDLY AND INCREASES IN DOMESTIC  
PRODUCTION ARE NOT EXPECTED TO KEEP UP WITH THE DEMAND,  
DESPITE A GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE TO RAISE PRODUCTION BY  
INTRODUCTION OF NEW OILSEEDS, ADDITIONAL ACREAGE UNDER  
CULTIVATION AND USAGE OF BETTER EXTRACTION PROCESSES.

11. THE GOP WILL FINANCE SOME PURCHASES THROUGH COMMERCIAL

CHANNELS AND WILL SEEK CONCESSIONAL LOANS AND GRANTS FOR  
THE BALANCE.  
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 08526 02 OF 02 220721Z

12. STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION OF FOOD REMAINS A PROBLEM.  
PAKISTAN IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN AN EMERGENCY STORAGE  
CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM WHICH WILL DOUBLE CURRENT STORAGE  
CAPACITY. THEY ARE ALSO TRYING TO ADDRESS THE SERIOUS  
PROBLEM OF TRANSPORTATION.  
HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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